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Courtesy--Montana Woolgrowers'

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SPRING RIDE - Two young girls enjoy a spring ride near Sidney. Although the weather hasn't been cooperative for farmers or construction crews, it still hasn't hampered recreation. Just ask the girls.

PREPARED BY

FARM LABOR SECTION
OF THE
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

JESS C. FLETCHER, DIRECTOR
BEN G. EVANS, CHIEF OF FARM PLACEMENT

A DIVISION OF THE EMPLOYMENT

SECURITY COMMISSION OF MONTANA

FRED BARRETT, CHAIRMAN

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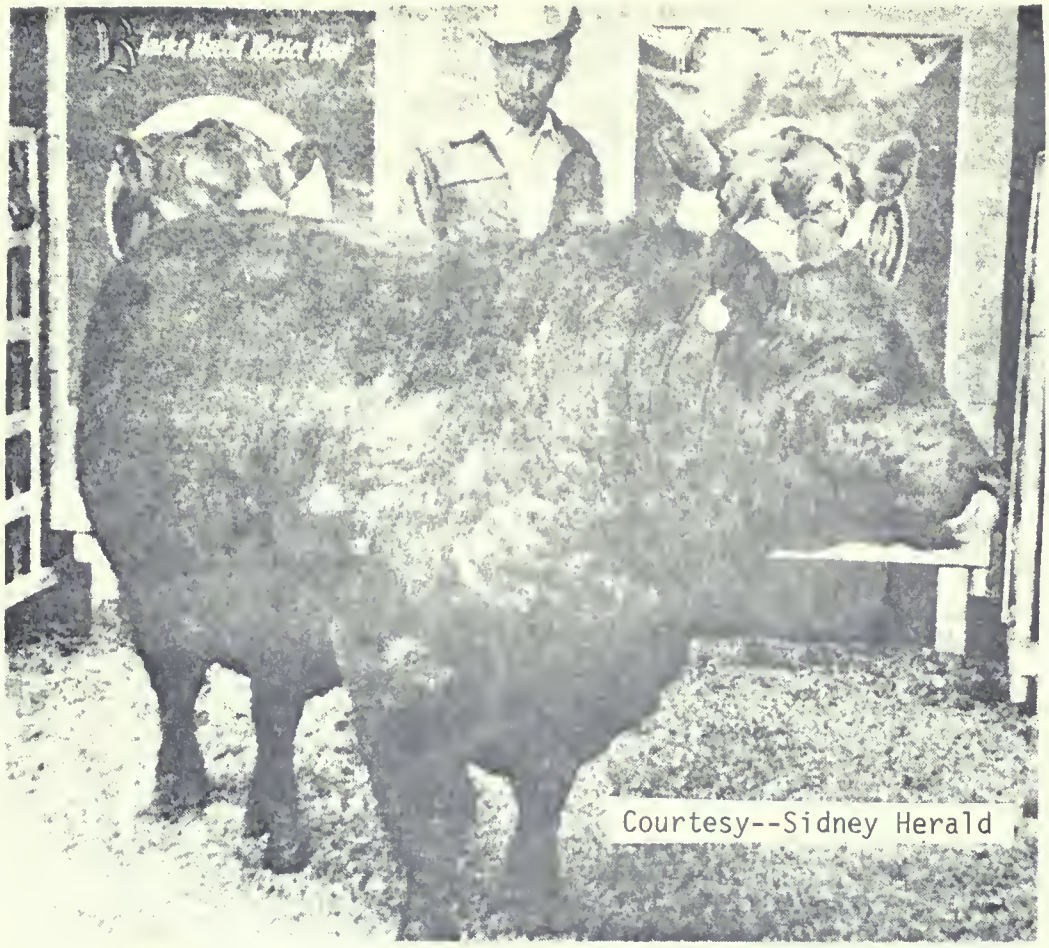

BULL SALE - Russell Denowh, Girard, stands behind a bull raised and sold by the Gartner - Denowh Angus Ranch west of Sidney, at their annual sale April 24. Cattle buyers from North and South Dakota, Montana and Canada were present for the sale. The above bull, Eileenmere 827 of GDAR sold for $1,500.

The Missoulian, Friday, September 24, 1971—1

BEST APPALOOSA — Kathy Castles of Mineral County shows her Appaloosa horse which won the competition in the halter class for animals under 1 year old during the Mineral County 4-H Club's fair held at Superior this summer. (Photo by Margie Hahn)

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Montana Woolgrower
APRIL, 1971

YOUNG FRIEND—Tana Blackmore, Miss Wool of Montana, comforts a day-old lamb. Miss Blackmore, who grew up on a sheep ranch near Pryor, was selected from among 19 Montana State University coeds to represent the Montana Sheep Council at the national Miss Wool pageant in San Angelo, Tex., this June. She is a sophomore majoring in sociology and plans a career as a high school guidance counselor.

(MSU photo by Max Hunke

Part I. ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING

A. Changes in Administrative Organization:

No changes were made in administrative organization during the 1971 season except that rural manpower concepts continued to be incorporated into the farm labor programs. FPR's were assigned non-agricultural contacts and duties to conform with the present rural programs. This could not be an extensive change due to lack of finances for an overall rural program. The overall mechanical administrative structure remains the same. More attention is to be given rural areas.

B. Pre-Season and In-Season Meetings:

State and local office Farm Placement personnel participated and cooperated with growers and processors throughout the season and attended meetings whenever and whereever things could be accomplished.

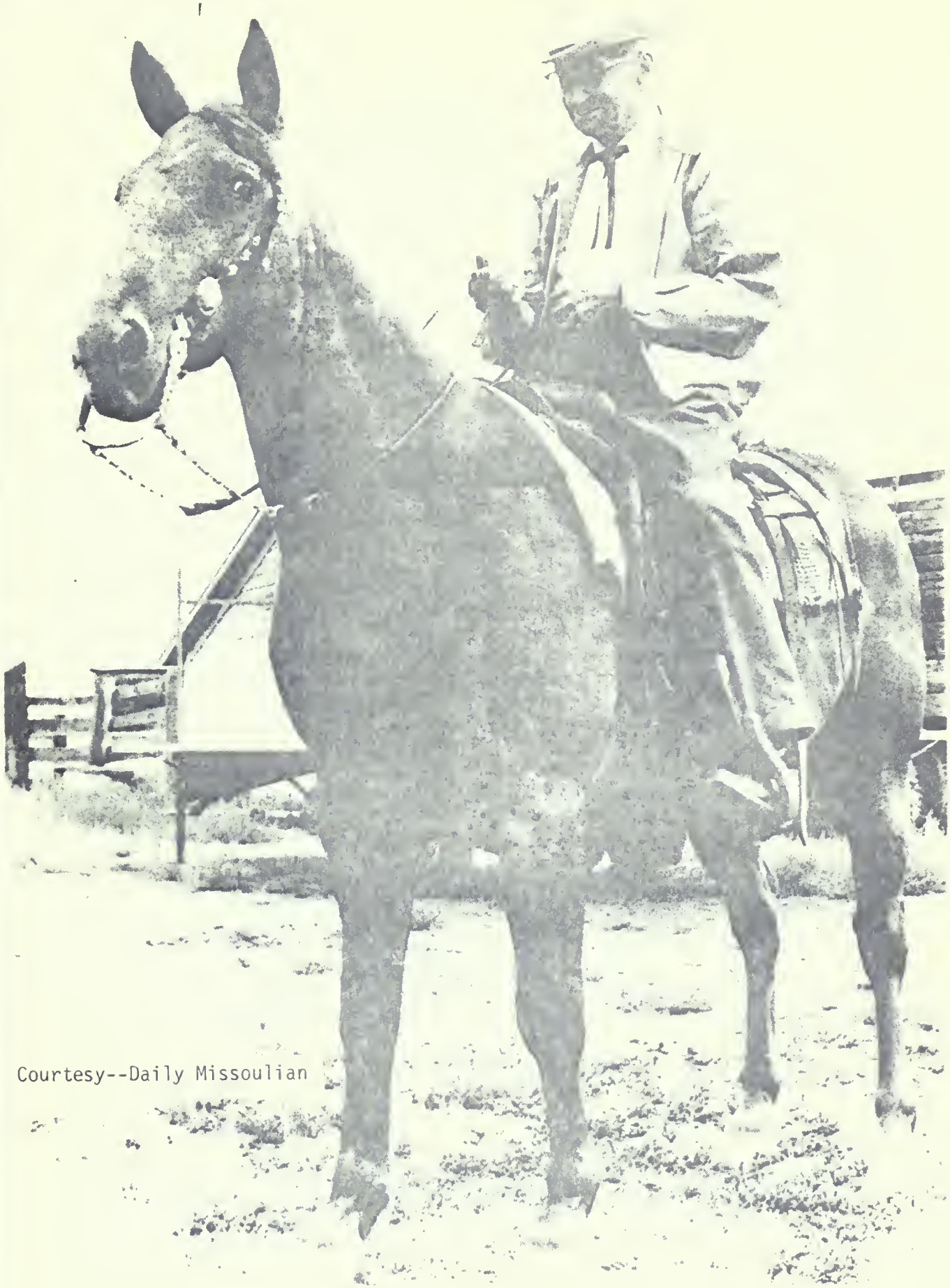
Farm Placement personnel, as heretofore, continued to work throughout the year with county and state Extension Services, Montana State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stablization and Conservation County Committees and other farm organizations.

C. Special Arrangements for Recruitment are made in Cooperation with other Government Agencies in other states.

Orders for sugar beet workers were placed in clearance with the state of Texas. In accordance with an agreement of several years, the Colorado Agency recruited workers in Texas for the Holly Sugar Company in Montana.

The closing of the Holly Sugar plant at Hardin, Montana, decreased sugar beet labor requirements by 1000 workers. No recruitment was required nor housing inspections made in the Billings area, as the remaining sugar company does its own recuriting. Area 08-30-03 (Sidney, Glendive, Miles City) remained normal except for an acreage reduction in the Miles City area.

Fewer Indians from local areas were recruited for the potato harvests due to mechanization. Youths were recruited extensively for hay and grain harvests. Sugar beet labor activity was continued but on a reduced scale in area 08-30-01. Due to an influx of labor into the state during the 1971 season, very little interstate recruitment was necessary except for sugar beet workers.



Courtesy--Daily Missoulian

TWO OLD HANDS — Arthur R. Deschamps, 88, still rides his 24-year-old horse on occasion at the Deschamps ranch in Grass Valley. The senior Deschamps recalls that a one-lane buggy trail used to lead to Grass Valley from Missoula when he was a lad. Today the four-lane Interstate 90 slices through the valley. (Photo by Gary Langley)

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Major changes in the agricultural economy which had an impact on employment were, first of all, increased grain and reduced sugar beet crops. Most areas received sufficient moisture and summer growing weather was very good, thus speeding grain and hay harvest. Turnover in the small youth beet program was normal, weed-acides were a great help. Crop planting was increased for winter wheat. Very good weather was a boon to harvests this year. Stock was returned to winter ranges under above average conditions. Yields on hay were exceptional. Grain was very good except in a few areas. The general harvest of all crops was excellent in spite of dry spells in a few areas. Tonnage was as good as was expected on sugar beets. Labor was more than adequate for the beet harvest with a good influx of Texas Mexicans. An excess of labor migrated into the state. Adverse weather caused some temporary delays in the sugar beet harvest.

Due to a normal harvest season, hired workers were sufficient for the work force. The largest demands were in wheat, other small grains and hay harvests. Beet thinning and pulling of weeks was normal. Harvest seasons and activity was normal. Potato harvests had no delays. Some areas noted a decrease in farm employment. Wages and mechanical improvements continued. Adverse weather caused very little schedule changes on labor which resulted in late season shortages. Community programs were not needed to help the harvest.

Hay and harvest hands were plentiful and amply taken care of by recruitment when necessary. It was a good year in farm employment much as it was the previous year. However, a decline of demands was noted throughout the State and increased use of large machinery was evident.

There was no major change in land utilization in 1971 brought about by participation in production and acreage control programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor has expansion of urban development into rural areas caused large significant changes. Farms were decreasing and getting larger. An influx of rural to urban continued. An influx of labor from other states helped the Montana labor supply. A labor strike in the mines and smelters provided an over-supply of farm help.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

A. Seasonal Hired Farm Workers

Local labor is generally male and operates machinery such as tractors, hay balers, trucks and small grain combines. They also perform non-agricultural work, as heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and construction labor.

LOOKING GOOD — Tricia Vinson of Thompson Falls rounds a barrel during the women's barrel racing competition at the Sanders County Fair held in early September at Plains. She rode the course in 20 seconds, not quite good enough to win the event. Barrel racing events give the ladies a chance to compete in the same rodeos their spouses do. (Staff photo by Jim Cotter)

Females work as ranch couples or single as ranch cooks. Non-agricultural employment is generally as cook in a cafe or demostic work. In western Montana, housewives work in the small fruit and berry harvests. There is an increased demand for female truck drivers during the sugar beet harvest.

Some high school youths of both sexes are recruited to hoe and thin sugar beets. Approximately 7,500 interstate male workers are employed in agricultural activities of small grains, haying and livestock activities. They are single or unattached. These workers are mostly from California, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Colorado. They also perform non-agricultural work as truck drivers and construction laborers. A number of farm couples also come into the state.

Approximately 2,500 interstate workers are employed in the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets. These workers are primarily family groups, and both sexes 14 years and older work. Their main occupation is that of a vegetable farm laborer. The majority of these workers are from Texas and are of Mexican descent.

The most significant shortages of seasonal farm workers were for the sprijg and fall seeding. Domestic workers who were available for this activity were from surrounding states. There was actually a surplus of workers in the state during the regular growing season. The supply of student labor was also greater.

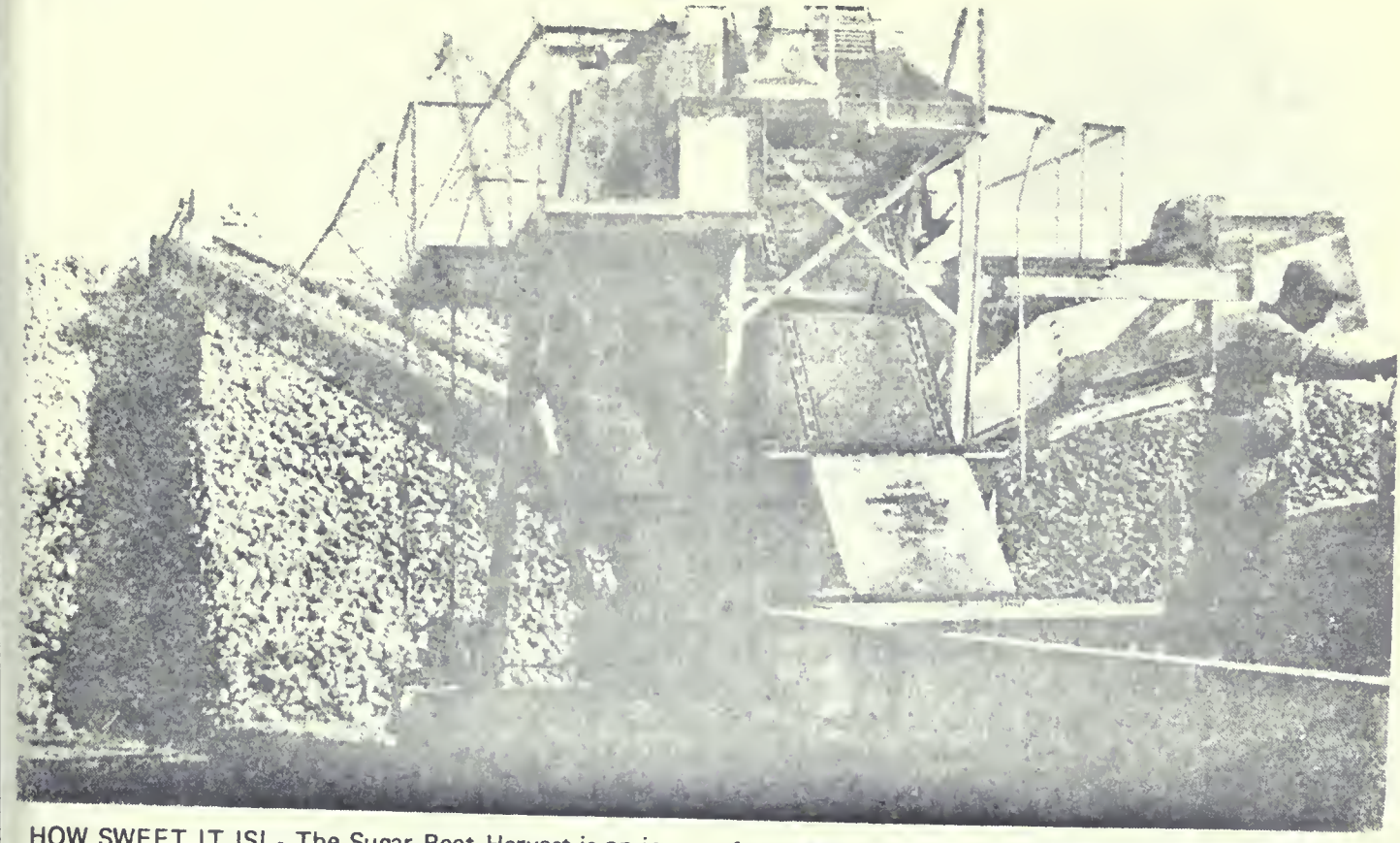
Professional cherry pickers were available for Polson and Kalispell orchards; an excellent crop was harvested. All professional cherry pickers wanting work were able to obtain employment. Actually, there was a minor shortage of pickers this year.

B. Regular Hired Farm Workers

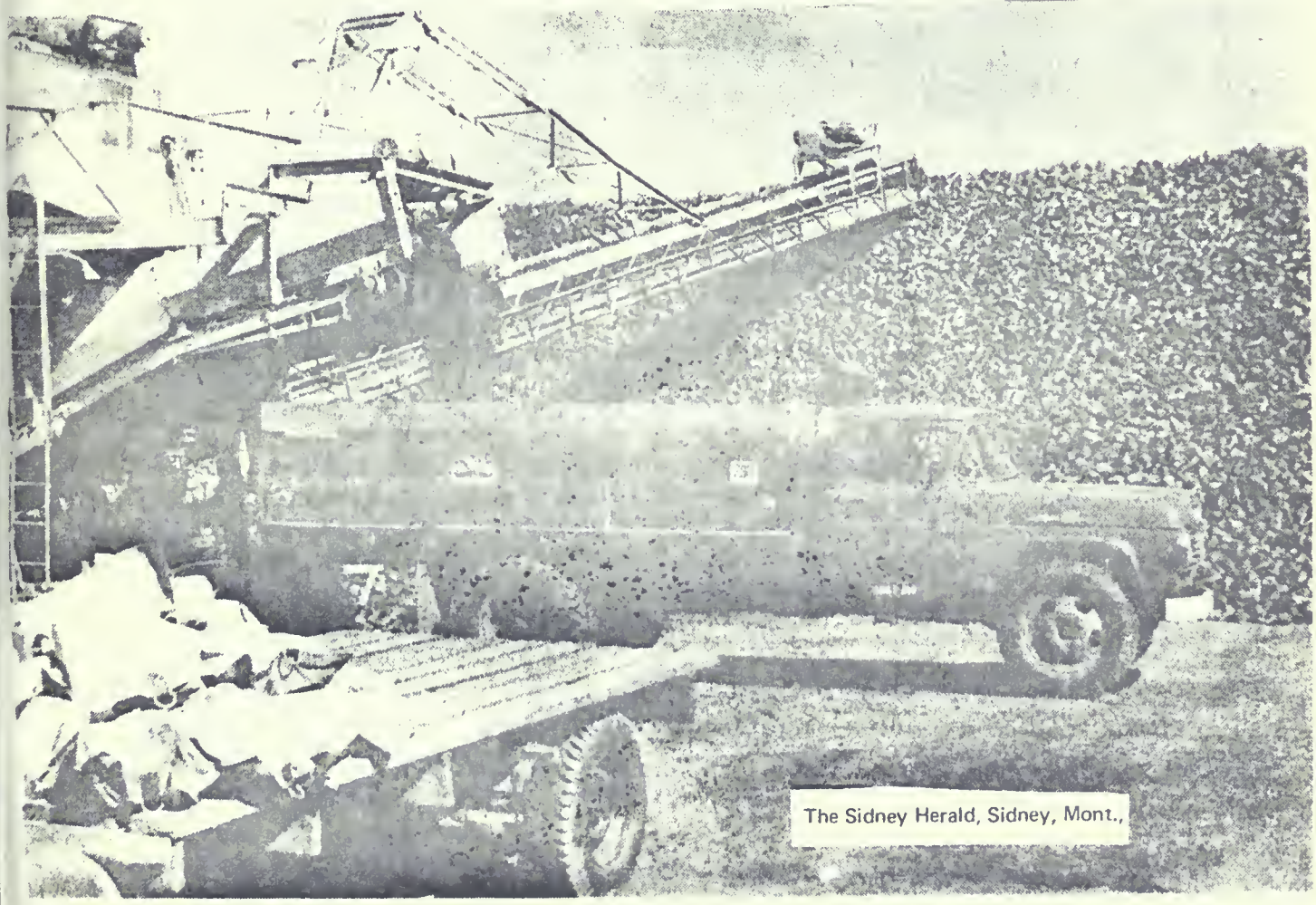
The livestock and dry land small grain activities are the major crops that employ regular hired farm workers. The general trend of employment for 1971 was slightly less than previous years. Generally good weather resulted in normal agricultural activities with few setbacks.

Mechanization is having its inroads and does decrease needs in some activities, such as mechanized feed lots, hay and potato harvests, etc. However, better farming methods and scientific know-how is producing more from acreages. Reclaimed land and increased acreages were evident.

Dry land and small grain farms continue to increase in size with the result that more farm machinery is being used. This is true especially in the eastern part of the state. Small acreages persist in western Montana. Many of the larger farms are maintaining large equipment and repair sheds, thus creating demands for skilled mechanical help and heavy machinery operators. There is a constant demand for good skilled operators.



HOW SWEET IT IS! - The Sugar Beet Harvest is on in the valley area, with the crop expected to be the best in Holly Sugar's history. The 14 receiving stations, from Williston, N. D., to Miles City, open this Friday for the sugar beet delivery, with a few already accepted last week in Sidney.



1,000 POUND BAG, PLEASE - Area sugar beets began the process last Friday of going from the field to the factory to the paper bag as granulated sugar. Holly Sugar Corporation's Sidney plant reported it expected a record-breaking sugar crop for the area this year.

— Herald Photo

IMPACT OF MECHANIZATION AND OTHER CHANGES IN PRODUCTION METHODS

A. The growing, care and processing of sugar beets has been considered the main crop mechanized to the most significant degree in recent years. The harvest as heretofore mentioned in the previous report is about 100 percent mechanized, and thinning around 70 percent. Considerable care in the planting of the seeds is important for the subsequent use of mechanical thinners. Seeds of the monogerm type must be placed in the ground at a pre-determined depth and interval of space. The size of the beet seed and cells of the plate in the planter must match. The equipment is simple in construction and does not require specialized knowledge to repair. During this season machines were used that would top six rows of sugar beets and dig three rows at a time thus contributing to a shorter harvest season and less labor.

1. Machines being used are hay harvesters which require but one person to operate. Potato harvesters are operated at times by family members. Bean harvesters have eliminated labor in the state. Large mechanical equipment is being used for soil preparation, seeding and summer fallowing. Mechanical corn pickers eliminated labor several years ago. Mechanical beet thinners and weedacides have made great strides in sugar beet operations. Feeding of cattle is getting more mechanized through the feed lot process. Mechanical grain harvesting is getting more efficient.

2. Skilled machine operators and repairman are in demand. There is a shortage of such workers, although some are being trained. The general influx of workers into the state contain very few skilled workers. There should be some way of training migrants prior to the migration. Although there is a seasonable demand for such workers, a displaced worker trained as such would not be guaranteed year around work.

3. Labor requirements resulting from mechanization this past season caused some demand, especially in the spring and fall, but demands for unskilled labor decreased from previous years. Mechanization has shortened the term of seasonal employment when weather conditions were normal.

4. Trends are toward getting employers organized to compete for labor, although this is slow. There is still an influx of farm labor into other fields of endeavor due to better incentives. Some employers recognize the changes needed but not enough yet. Technological changes will force changes in the agriculture labor market similar to the non-agricultural.

HITCHING UP - Determined wagon trainers disregarded wind and rain as they prepared to begin their two-day Memorial Day trek from Enid to Richey Saturday and Sunday. Over 250 hardy souls took part in the Mondak Wagon Train that covered about 22 miles of rugged terrain.

Courtesy--Sidney Herald

B. Improved seeding in sugar beets continues to make the thinning process less laborious all the time. Weedacides are eliminating labor to a great extent. Workers are moving through row crops faster than previously.

RECRUITMENT AND UTILIZATION OF FARM WORKERS

A. Radio, television, newspaper publicity, letters and posters were utilized by the local offices to obtain the maximum supply of local seasonal farm workers. Excellent results were obtained.

One local office recruited youth for work in sugar beets. This proved to be very satisfactory.

Volunteer Farm Placements Representatives were used in most local office areas. Where possible, VFPR's made placements from local sources or transmitted unfilled orders to local offices for action. Farmers and ranchers were advised of their local VFPR through local newspapers, radio, posters, and by direct promotional mail from the local offices. While all VFPR's were not 100 percent effective, it is planned to continue this activity in 1972 with possibilities of Rural Representatives being added.

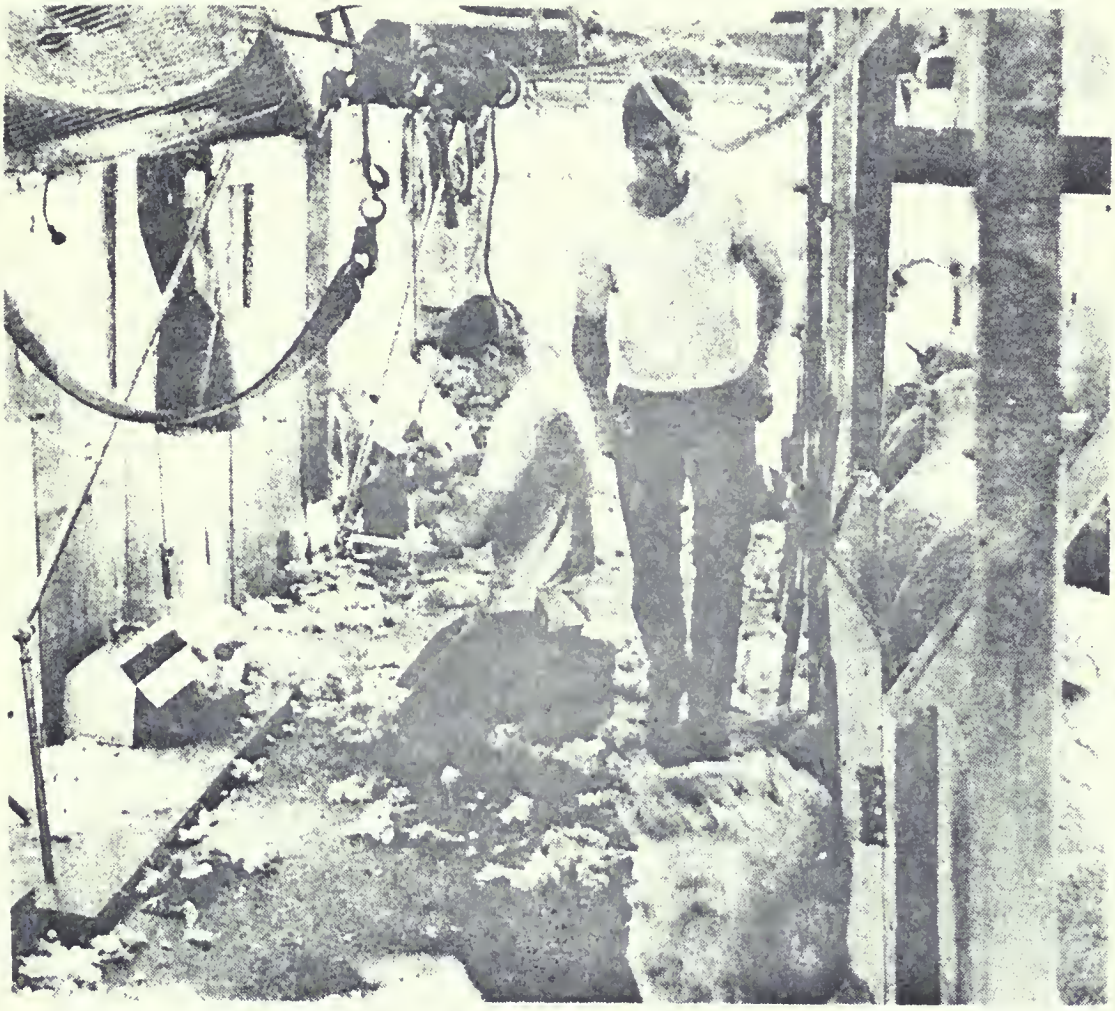
The local skilled labor supply was sufficient to meet the demand for regular hired farm workers; inter-office clearance was used for some occupations. A greater influx of out-of-state workers occurred during the 1971 season.

B. Montana Participated in the Annual Worker Plan

As an order-holding state, Montana received scheduled crews and family heads in response to inter-state orders for 1,200 workers from Texas for the beet fields. Bulletins to California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho usually result in sufficient migration from west coast cherry orchards to fill the needs of the 750 pickers needed in Montana cherry orchards, when crop conditions are normal. No problems were involved relating to transportation, wages, housing, food, etc. This year's crop was exceptional; a shortage existed for professional pickers. The 1,200 beet workers represented a reduction of 1,000 workers from last season, due to the closing of the Hardin sugar plant.

C. Numerous inspections were made. These were directly related to interstate recruitment. When inspections are made prior to occupancy, and until domestic recruitment is completed, it is not possible to determine whether housing will be occupied by domestic families or groups of single workers. All housing is basically family type, or farm, necessitating a dual determination of suitability.

All agency inspections are made as a part of the regular program of field visiting. About 500 housing units are occupied at some time during the eight-week period that migratory labor is employed in large numbers.



An inside view of the Ralph Kuhn - Joe Fleck sheep shearing trailor house is shown as workmen prepare for a day's work. The trailor house is completely rigged for shearing and can run 130 head of sheep through per hour on a good day.

Courtesy--Sidney Herald

Federal housing regulations are under the Department of Labor. Meetings held with growers and agency personnel, both State and Federal, aided in ironing out misunderstandings.

No difficulties have been encountered in arranging cooperation. Employers who do not conform to housing regulations will be denied recruitment of workers unless housing meets requirements prior to time of recruitment. Greater coverage of housing unspections was accomplished in 1971.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The local Farm Placement Representatives are working with rural development programs and are continuing special surveys of manpower resources, underemployment and unemployment in rural areas. They are gathering routine employment security data to be used in economic base reports and plans for rural development. However, such activities are limited from lack of personnel, equipment and finances. Therefore, only a token of rural development programs can be carried out due to the amount of travel involved and due to the fact that the greater emphasis and finances are going into urban programs. The migration influx continues from the rural areas to the urban areas. We are cooperating with all committees, community groups, state or Federal organizations to remedy the rural problems. Our agency pushes ideas to unite farmers and ranchers to helping solve their labor problems. So far, employers are not organized toward promoting central labor comps, etc. A Concerted Services project has started in the Roundup area. An experimental and Demonstration Project - MDTA Agri-business Unit was in the proposal state, but did not materialize.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

State and local office personnel participated in farm organization meetings, Chamber of Commerce, civic groups and public schools to strengthen public understanding of the Agency's Farm and rural Placement Program. Generally, the method is round table or informal discussion from the floor.

Newspaper, radio and television is used to disseminate farm labor market information. All local offices regularly prepare news releases designed for listener and reader appeal. Thousands of farm and harvest bulletins are mailed each year.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Placement totals decreased slightly under the preceding year. Weather, growing and harvesting conditions varied. This decrease was due to mechanization. The cherry crop provided additional employment in Polson and Kalispell. Activities, especially in livestock and haying were up from the previous year. Grain farming was up from previous

Cattle feeding in a private feedlot

Courtesy--Sidney Herald

Feeding calves at Henry Paschke feedlot, one of the stops on the feeder tour

previous years. The "Youth in Sugar Beet Program" was minimized due to a good supply of domestic workers from Texas. Domestic workers were plentiful and considered very good help by most employers, but in short supply during the spring and fall periods. The influx of outside labor was more than adequate.

Every effort will be made to fully utilize local sources of labor, particularly in counties eligible under Public Works and Economic Development Acts. We would like to see some means of training transients at their source so that there will be more skilled workers among the transients who migrate to Montana each year.

FOUR WINDS

INDIAN BEADWORK & OLD FLATHEAD PHOTOS

Courtesy--Flathead Courier

PART II

OUTLOOK FOR COMING YEAR

STATE FORECAST

The outlook on agricultural employment for Montana in 1972 is that employment is expected to be slightly under 1971 pending satisfactory weather conditions. However, since 1971 was a good year, it could be that with more mechanization employment will decline perhaps to the extent of several hundred workers. Should moisture be sufficient, employment may not change to a significant extent. With usual winter conditions, the later part of the year some pickup should occur in feeding operations. The good fall grain seeding conditions experienced and no repetition of reduced sugar beet acreage could make some difference in farm labor demands.

AREA FORECAST

Area 08-30-01

WESTERN FRUIT AND SUGAR BEETS

Agricultural Reporting Area 08-30-01, Western Fruit and Sugar Beet (Flathead Lake, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher Counties).

The farm labor outlook for the coming year should be slightly down from 1971 provided weather conditions are favorable. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities. Sugar beet acreage will ramain on a reduced basis sinxe this is no longer considered a primary sugar beet area. The 1971 cherry crop was excellent due to very favorable weather. Every professional cherry picker seeking work was employed.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Period Involved
Soil preparation & seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May-August
Haying	June-September
Irrigating	May-August
Small fruit harvest	July-August
Small grain harvest	August
Potato Harvest	September
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

Courtesy--Flathead Courier

YOUNG VISITOR AND FRIEND were caught by the Courier camera at the Science and Art Fair at Cherry Valley School last week. Exhibits from Linderman and Cherry Valley elementary schools were combined and hundreds of persons viewed displays.

Area 08-30-02

SOUTHERN SUGAR BEETS

Agricultural Reporting Area 08-30-02, Southern Sugar Beet (Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Treasure, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties.)

Again the weather will be the deciding factor. It is expected labor requirements will be under those of 1971. The supply and demand for labor in irrigated activities will be approximately the same as last year. Local and migratory labor is expected to meet demands in all activities. A portion of the demand can be met through youth groups in the thinning, hoeing and weeding of sugar beets. Migrant domestic workers will be available for other states following the completion of thinning and hoeing of sugar beets in July. Sugar beet acreage was decreased in this area last season due to the closing of the Hardin plant; there was a reduction of 950 beet workers. It is expected to be the same in 1972.

The activities and approximate time periods involved:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation & seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May 15-July 31
Haying	June-August
Fallowing	June-September
Small grain harvest	July-August
Sweet corn harvest	August 15-September 15
Field Corn harvest	August
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

Area 08-30-03

LOWER YELLOWSTONE BEET AND GRAIN

Agricultural Reporting Area 08-30-03, Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain (Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Powder Riber, and Carter Counties.)

Should moisture content repeat that of 1971, employment requirements should be the same except there could be some adjustment on sugar beet acreages. In irrigated areas there is little anticipated change. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities including sugar beets. Demands could be less due to the success of weedacides by several hundred workers during the 1971 season.

UNLOADING — Donald Lammert of Plains unloads a prime Scotch pine grown on the J. Hofert Co. plantation on land owned Peter Krudde north of Plains.

Courtesy--Daily Missoulian

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May-July
Haying	June-August
Irrigation	June-September
Fallowing	May-August
Small grain harvest	July-August
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

Area 08-30-04

TRIANGLE AND HIGHLINE HARDWHEAT

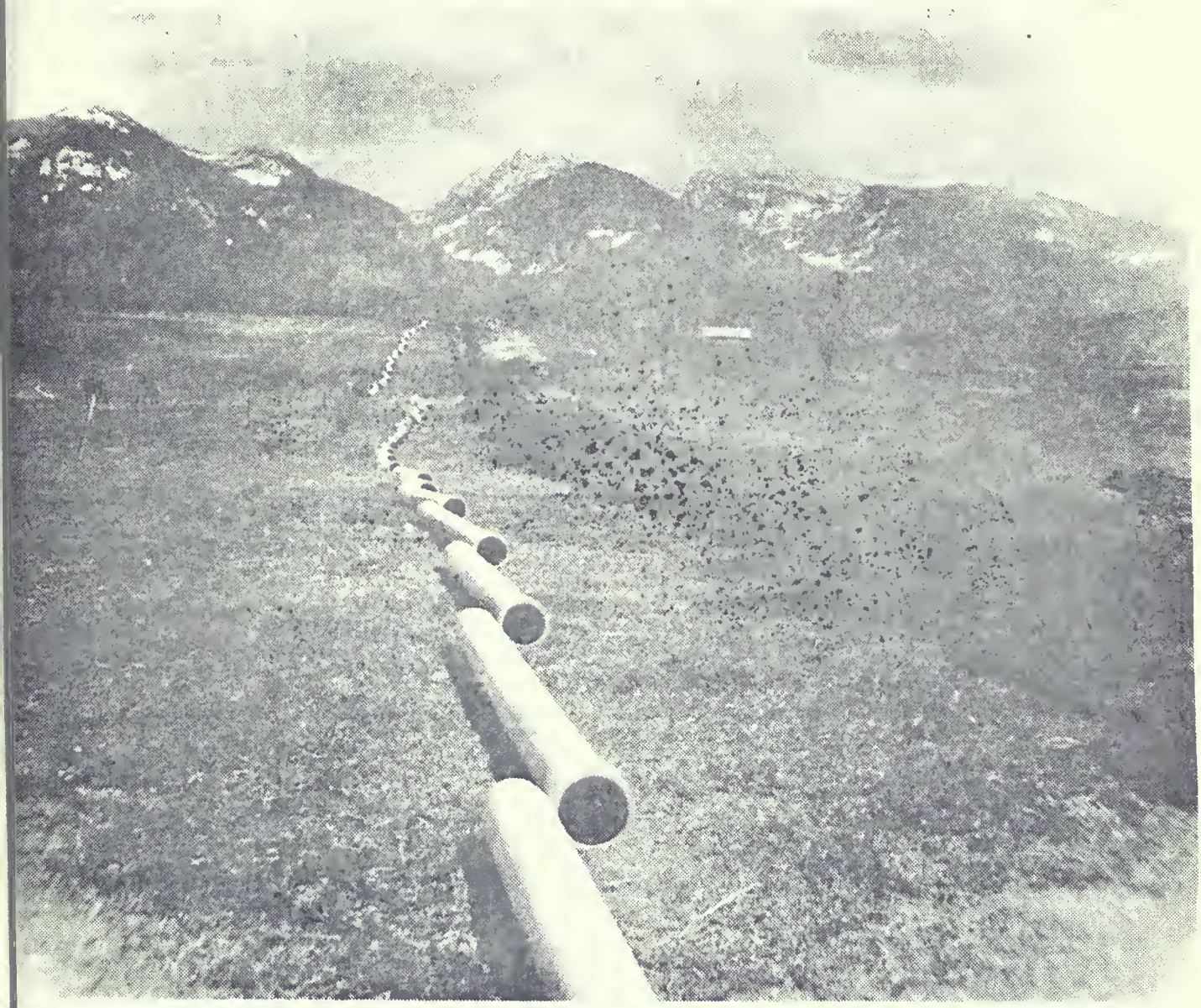
Agricultural Reporting Area 08-30-04, Triangle and Highline Hard Wheat (Teton, Choteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, and Sheridan Counties.)

This is primarily a dry land wheat growing and livestock area. Should sufficient moisture be received in 1971, the labor requirements will be up but less than for 1971. However, a dry year could make a difference. It is anticipated that local workers and voluntary in-migration of interstate workers will satisfy all demands for this areas's activities. Grain activities should be up as in 1971.

Sugar beet acreage and the demand for labor is expected to be down from 1971.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning & hoeing	May-June
Haying	June-August
Irrigation	June-August
Small grain harvest	July-August
Fallowing	May-September
Sugar beet harvest	October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December



A PORTION OF THE TWO MILES of asbestos cement sprinkler mainline ready to be placed in the trench and covered. This system will provide irrigation water for 330 acres of land farmed by Henry Normandeau, Paul Metzger, and Frank Raitor northeast of Ronan. Sprinkler irrigation conserved water by preventing run-off into drainages and streams that so often result in bank cutting and sedimentation.

Courtesy--Flathead Courier

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
ES-225 Table I (R-10/68)

STATE
MONTANA
CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED
1971

	ITEM	NUMBER
SECTION A.	DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY	
1	Town with day-haul points	None
2	Number of day-haul points	None
3	Sum of days day-haul points operated during year	None
4	Total number of workers transported during year	None
SECTION B.	SELECTED SERVICES TO SCHOOL-AGE WORKERS (Under 22 years)	
5	Supervised camps operated for school-age farm workers	None
	a. Placements in camps	None
6	Placements of school-age workers in supervised live-in farm homes	None
SECTION C.	SERVICES TO INDIANS LIVING ON RESERVATIONS	
7	Rendered by on-reservation local offices or at itinerant points	
	a. Farm Placements	170
	b. Applicant-holding acceptances	20
8	Other farm placements of reservation Indians	403
SECTION D.	OTHER SELECTED DATA	
9	Number of local offices which held farm clinics	None
10.	Sum of days on which farm clinics were held	None
11.	Total number of local offices participating in formal community service programs	3
12.	Peak number of volunteer farm placement representatives	130

SIGNATURE Jess C. Fletcher
Jess C. Fletcher

TITLE
Director,
Employment Service

Beet Growers to Consider Corn

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has been requested to consider a corn base for all former sugar beet growers in the Hardin area by a task force working with the growers.

The task force of USDA personnel, in cooperation with the Big Horn County farmers, has compiled a report which estimated that closure of the Holly Sugar Company factory at Hardin had a $10 million impact on the community. It said that even if the corn base is granted, "it is entirely possible that some growers will be forced off the farm."

Data sent by the task force to the office of the Secretary of Agriculture said that without relief, in the form of ability to grow corn, the impact "on the entire rural community and business economy will cause irrepairable damage."

Ability to grow grain corn this year is "necessary to enable producers to utilize exlsting fertilizer and part of their machinery," the report said. It quoted local people as saying that without a corn base "about half of the producers (50 farmers will be forced out of business."

Dr. Charles Rust of the Montana Cooperative Extension Service is chairman of the task force named Feb. 2 by the Committee for Rural Development. The CRD group includes heads of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, Soil Conservation, Agricultural Research, Economic Research and Forest services, Farmers Home Administration, Rural Electrification and Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.

Grain corn was determined by the task force as the best alternative crop, following meetings with farmers, credit representatives, researchers and others in the Hardin area.

Corn would work better than barley, wheat, oats, dry beans or corn silage, some of other alternatives, particularly to recover most of the investment already made. Approximately 7,000 acres had been worked and fertilized at cost averaging more than $30 per acre. The high rates of fertilizer already applied would make imppossible, as well as uneconomical, the growing of many crops.

Adoption of technology and good management indicates per-acre yields of more than 100 bushels of corn per acre could become quite common in the area. The task force agreed this production level on 10,000 acres converted to corn, or some one million bushels, would not place undue strain on the regional corn markets, if orderly marketing can be based upon a storage and loan program.

Growing grain corn would result in a loss of only approximately $300,000 in income to farmers. Corn produced as silage would reduce estimated farmer income $400,000 annually, the task force estimated.

There is an extremely limited market for corn silage, although the task force took a detailed look at increased livestock feeding as a long - term alternative. Economical growing of corn silage would require establishing a local market.

Big Horn County last year had 9,729 acres of sugar beets harvested from 9,936 acres planted. This yielded 163,955 tons of beets. Farm income from sugar beets of $3,825,000 in 1970, which had at least double that dollar impact upon the community, is just part of the lost - income story.

Big Horn County received $64,059 in sugar industry - related taxes last year.

Holly Sugar Company had a payroll of $912,000, which with a two - to - one multiplier meant a $1,825,000 impact on the community. The payroll included 50 year - around employes, 260 factory workers full time during the slicing campaign, 325 other employes during harvesting and 575 migrant field workers. The migrant workers received an average of $30 per acre, for a total of $300,000.

In any case, farmers will have to make major adjustments not only for land and crops but for equipment, and this would involve significant need for capital.

Sugar beet growers rely heavily upon capital borrowed from banks, Production Credit Association, Farm Home Administration and other sources. The task force learned that 91 borrowers presently have loans of $3,564,664.

This figure does not include machinery, fertilizer and other purchases financed by the sellers. Adding an estimated $1 million for open - account credit, Big Horn County farmers are using more than $4.5 million in operating credit to grow beets.

Superintendent James Krall and Agronomist Don Baldridge of the Huntley Branch Agricultural Experiment Station told the task force and farmers that early - variety commercial hybrid corns (classified 80 - to - 90 - day maturity) have performed best in southcentral Montana. They recommended investigation of growing high - moisture grains.

An 80 - 90 - day maturity corn harvested at 30 to 40 per cent moisture could produce 7,000 pounds of quality livestock feed per acre on a dry matter basis, it was noted.

Rust said ability to switch to corn, giving the second - best crop choice as well as best utilization of present equipment and fertilizer investment — including work already done, depends upon obtaining a corn base. Less than half of the farmers have any feed grain base, and this covers only 1,537 acres, the task force noted.

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Employment Security
ES-225 Table 2 (R-10/68)

State: Montana

Calendar Year Reported: 1971

COMPOSITION OF INTERSTATE FARM MIGRANT GROUPS

SECTION A. MIGRANT GROUP CONTACTS			SECTION B. REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS		SECTION C. GROUP'S WORKING IN REPORTING STATE	
I TYPE	II BY REPORTING STATE	III REPORTING STATE RES.	I TYPE	II NUMBER	I TYPE	II NUMBER
1. Total	130		2. Total persons		4. Families	141
a. Crew leaders	5		3. Total workers		5. Unattached Males	29
b. Family heads	118		XXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	6. Unattached Females	1
c. Other	7		XXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX

SECTION D. COMMENTS

There were no transportation problems encountered.

Housing had improved some.

Re-inspections are to be made on those not up to standard prior to the recruitment clearance order.

SIGNATURE Jess C. Fletcher Jess C. Fletcher

TITLE Director, Montana State Employment Service

...ONTINENT ... 21

...aise for Herders

...HEEPHERDERS' wages have ...one up $15 a month following ...everal conferences between the ...abor Department and the West...rn Range Association. The in...rease applies to contract sheep...erders. Under a new agree...ient during the first year in the ...nited States, the contract ...erders must be paid $225 per ...onth; during the second year, ...265 per month, and during the ...ird and continuing years, $275 ...er month.

...tatus Important to Permanency

Don't Call a Hired Hand a 'Hired Hand'

By DICK HANSEN JR.
Tribune Farm Writer

...OPLIN—If you want a hap...r and more permanent ...ed man, don't call him a ...ired man."

...is is one of ... findings of ...overnment and ...ivate re...search econo...sts from a ...e-year study ... a large num...r of em...oyees of near... a hundred ...mmercial farms.

Hansen

The economists found that pay ...el does not appear to be a ...ajor factor in farm employee ...nover — social status may ...ay a more vital role. Social ...atus is not easily measured, ...ey note, but skilled farm em...oyees often said that the low ...teem given them by members ... a community was a sore ...ot. They also found it diffi...lt to become a part of the ...mmunity and differences in ...ligious beliefs or social cus...ms are not easily overlooked. ... some communities.

On the Farm Scene

But the most disturbing to skilled employees was the title they often receive and the second-class citizenship associated with the title. The researchers point out that the titles commonly used to refer to farm employees have not changed over the years even though the skill level has changed considerably with the increase in mechanized farming.

Farm employers have done little to improve the title problem. About half of the operators surveyed said they used the title, "hired man." Only 16 of the nearly one hundred farm employers indicated they used a title differing much from one used in the horse and buggy days. Of these, nine used the title of "helper," which may not properly describe even those in the lowest skill level of farm employment today. Seven other employers indicated the following titles: herdsman, associate or assistant, partner, manager. Interestingly enough, the rate of turnover was about 32 per cent higher than average on those farms where "hired man" was used.

To attract and keep skilled farm labor, farm operators need to originate and promote the use of titles that more adequately describe the caliber of today's farm employes, the economists contend. They say that perhaps the image of commercial farm businesses in general should be improved to reflect the differences between those who still "milk a few cows, to keep a few sows, or raise a few chickens."

The problem of selecting a farm title often stems from the many diverse tasks performed on today's commercial-sized farm. Yet sufficient skills are often required in so many areas that an employe could appropriately be called by several titles.

Even on farms where employers use appropriate titles, the titles of farm employes expressed by others in the community can be very annoying. One highly skilled employe related an instance in which his wife was shopping in a local community store and upon writing a check for the purchases, the cashier asked about her husband's occupation. She responded by saying that he worked for — and named the farm employer. the cashier's response was on this order: "Oh, you mean he's a hired hand?" The response upset the wife for several days.

Generally, the short supply of farm labor at all skill levels has encouraged farm employers to increase wage offers to new employes. Wages for employes hired earlier have not increased accordingly, the study notes. the skill of the more recently hired emptoeys has been low with some not sufficiently skilled for the job. Most have not established community ties, so when they feel they have been treated unfairly, they find another job. This leads to a higher turnover rate of lower-skilled employes, and yet the rate of turnover does not appear to be higher for those in the lower pay classes. This is because lower skilled employes leaving the farm have mainly been those hired more recently and paid higher wages to attract them to farm jobs.

The study revealed that employes like to be given productive jobs and treated as an associate — not as a slave or machine. And the low status associated with farm employment may limit the potential supply of full-time employes. Titles of employes need to be updated, and progressive incentive plans would be helpful, the study concludes.

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Employment Security
Form ES-225 Table 3 (R-10/68)

STATE	Montana
CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED	1971

INTERSTATE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

ITEM	ORDERS		OPENINGS	
	EXTENDED (Sec. A) RECEIVED (Sec. B)	FILLED	EXTENDED (Sec. A) RECEIVED (Sec. B)	FILLED
I	II	III	IV	V
SECTION A. REPORTING STATE AS ORDER-HOLDING STATE				
1. Reporting State, TOTAL	165	165	947	947
2. Applicant-Holding States Involved				
Texas	1	1	6	6
Texas-Colorado	164	164	941	941
SECTION B. REPORTING STATE AS APPLICANT-HOLDING STATE				
3. Reporting State, TOTAL	16	0	36	564
4. Order-Holding States Involved				
California	0	0	0	16
Colorado	1	0	1	71
Indiana	0	0	0	10
Michigan	0	0	0	228
Minnesota	1	0	1	9
Missouri	1	0	1	0
Ohio	0	0	0	122
Oregon	0	0	0	10
South Dakota	2	0	2	0
Utah	8	0	9	0
Washington	0	0	0	17
Wisconsin	1	0	20	81
Wyoming	2	0	2	0

SECTION C. COMMENTS

Sugar beet worker referrals which were accepted by other states are included; some of which did not have clearance orders extended to Montana.

SIGNATURE	TITLE
Jess C. Fletcher	Director, Montana State Employment Service

Industrial, Farm Hiring Pares Jobless Lists

HELENA (AP) — Job openings in industry and agriculture were credited Wednesday with helping cut the number of Montana claimants for jobless insurance benefits to a total of 5,865.

Fred Barrett, chairman of the Employment Security Commission, said last week's claim total of 5,865 is 4.4 per cent under the comparable 1970 week.

He estimated the state's unemployment rate for May at 6.2 per cent of the total work force of 290,800, compared with 7.1 per cent in April.

Of the civilian wage earners, 233,200 are on industrial payrolls and 39,500 are employed in agriculture. The remaining 18,100 persons are looking for jobs.

"Most of the new job action last week was in construction, agriculture and the trade and service industries," Barrett said in his weekly report.

At Missoula, where about $45 million in building and highway work is in progress, ground was broken for a $2.5 million senior citizens apartment complex. Highway projects in Billings and Great Falls added 150 men to payrolls and the Libby Dam work force was up 200 to 1,400.

Except at some higher elevations, logging employment was said to be back to normal after the spring break-up. Mill employment held steady in most areas.

Farm labor demand was described as "at a good pace."

PART III. ATTACHMENTS TO REPORT

Lists of Information Stations and Seasonal Offices.

Temporary farm offices are operated each year by the Great Falls local office. This is at Fort Benton in the heart of the grain country. Office space is rented during the seeding and soil preparation season in the spring usually through part of April and May. The office is set up again during the harvest from the latter part of July through the third week in August.

Special Studies.

Special studies are made of rural manpower activities.

Bulletins and Promotional Materials.

Farm bulletins, farm letters, newspaper advertising, and promotional materials used during the 1971 season are included.

Montana
FARM AND RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
of the Employment Security Commission

HELENA, MONTANA
Phone 449-3620

August 25, 1971 Number 20

TATE SUMMARY: Weather is cooling off somewhat around the State. The second cutting of alfalfa ay has started in most areas with some nearly completed. Shortages of farm and ranch hands, oth singles and couples are reported around the State.

rop conditions change rapidly; contact the nearest local office before leaving the area.

WESTERN

NACONDA: Weather continues hot and dry. Second cutting of alfalfa progressing well. Still some utting of wild hay. Irrigation in all areas going full force. Labor supply meeting demand.
UTTE: Grain harvest and ranch maintenance are main activities. Surplus of men in the area.
ILLON: Main activities are irrigating, haying, grain harvesting, fencing, fallowing and herding. eather hot and dry. Labor supply meeting demand at present time.
AMILTON: MAin farm activities are cherry picking, haying, irrigating, berry picking. Weather as been hot and dry. Labor supply balanced.
ELENA: Weather hot and dry. Main activity is haying, second cutting of alfalfa. Labor supply eets demand. Harvest of grains about 75% complete. No need for men or machines. Wages for ingles, $8-$12.50 day, and couples--$300 plus house.
ALISPELL: Main activities are hay and grain harvest and irrigating. Wages, $1.50-$2.00 hr. abor supply meets demand. Non-ag openings for woods workers, tractor operators and timber fallers. eather cloudy with showers.
MISSOULA: Weather continues warm with nights cooling off. Irrigation & second cutting of hay are ain activities. Short 2 single farm hands, $250 mo. B&R; fallers, heelboom operators, skid cat perators needed outside immediate area.
OLSON: Weather warm with cooling trend. Irrigation & second cutting of hay main activities. Short 2 single farmhands, $210 mo. B&R. Some field work on potatoes.

SOUTH CENTRAL

BILLINGS: Grain harvest complete except for clean up operations. Second cutting of alfalfa. Corn harvest starting. No moisture practically all summer. Shortage of married couples. Waitresses needed in outlying areas, $1.60 hr.
BOZEMAN: Current farm activities are fencing, irrigating, summer fallowing. Second cutting of hay to start next week. Shortages are on day to day basis for temporary hay & harvest hands. Combining continues, quality and yield better than expected. Winter wheat about 50% completed. Non-ag openings are for 1 fry cook, $16 per shift B&R; 1 maid for private home on ranch, $175 mo.
LEWISTOWN: Harvesting and summer fallowing are main activities. Weather hot and dry. Short 2 single farm hands, $250 mo. B&R; 1 married couple, $300 mo. and up.
LIVINGSTON: Irrigating, fencing, haying are main activities. Short 1 ranch cook, possible year-round. Supply meeting demand for other ranch work.

NORTH CENTRAL

CUT BANK: Received rain in area, weather cool. Harvest getting underway. Main activities are harvest and irrigation. No shortages of men or machines at this time. Shortage expected after Aug. 30.

LASGOW: Harvesting is main activity. Number of workers meeting demand. Weather hot and dry.
REAT FALLS: Grain harvest activities nearly completed. Corn chopping expected this week. No mands or calls for help. Short 5 farm & ranch cooks at $200-$250 mo. B&R. Truck drivers, $12-5 per day B&R for hauling silage. Second cutting of alfalfa 40% complete with no demands for y hands.
AVRE: Main activities are haying, irrigating, completion of small grain harvest. Weather is hot dry. Wages, $20 day for truck drivers, $25-30 per day for combine operators. Supply of workers esently meeting the demand.
HELBY: Main activity grain harvest & summer fallowing. Wages, $12-15 day B&R for singles. No ortage of men at present time. Surplus of men and machines in area. Wages, $15-20 for truck ivers, $20-25 combine men B&R. Rain received which will slow activities.
OLF POINT: Harvest now complete in many areas. Labor supply & demand in balance. Non-ag open-ngs for bartender, $600 mo.; gager, $2.50 hr; lubrication man, $1.80 hr.

EASTERN

LENDIVE: Weather hot with no rain. Grain harvest is 90% completed. Crop heavy with good yield. upply meeting demand.
ILES CITY: Weather hot and dry. Short 1 ranch hand, $200 mo. B&R. Summer fallowing, haying, eneral farm & ranch work. Labor supply meeting demand for farm & ranch openings. Wheat harvest ompleted in area. Quality and yields better than expected.
IDNEY: Main activity is harvest of small grain. Weather hot and dry. Short 1 farm couple, $350 and house. Harvest of winter wheat is completed and spring wheat harvest is about 90% complete. arvest crews are leaving area.

TTENTION FARMERS AND RANCHERS!!

he United States Immigration Service cautions that if you hire aliens who are illegally in the .S. you may lose them when they are most needed. Aliens cannot work in the U.S. unless they are ermanent residents and carry a greenish-blue laminated identification card, 3½" X 2½", which con-ains their name, entry data, photograph, etc. If in doubt, call the United States Border Patrol tation.

ection 274 of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act states in part, "any person who illfully or knowingly conceals, harbors, or shields from detection in any place, including any uilding ... any alien not fully admitted by an immigration officer or not lawfully entitled to nter or reside within the United States ... shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction hereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $2,000 or by imprisonment for a term not to xceed five years, or both, for each alien in respect to whom any violation of this subsection ccurs."

MONTANA STATE
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
P. O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

FIRST CLASS MAIL

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
ACCOUNTED FOR UNDER
ACT OF CONGRESS

FUN AND RECREATION at the Kicking Horse Training center include attempts to become real Montana cowboys as the trainees try to ride this substitute bucking bronco. Willing hands at the ropes provide plenty of thrills, and the "bronc" busters had little success in staying on until the whistle.

Jaycee sponsored High School Rodeo action

Courtesy--Flathead Courier

Billings Gazette

86th Year—No. 273 Billings, Montana, Thursday Morning, January 28, 1971 Single Copy 10c Home Delivery Price is Lower

May Shut Down Permanently

Holly Sugar to Close Hardin Plant in 1971

By ROB BURNES
Gazette Staff Writer

The Holly Sugar Corporation announced Wednesday it will not process sugar beets at its Hardin plant for any 1971 crops and may close the plant permanently.

The closure affects over 200 employes at the plant and beet growers from northern Wyoming, along the Big Horn River and down the Yellowstone River valley to Miles City.

It will remove a $6 million-a-year payroll to eastern Montana.

"The decision to stop processing at Hardin for the 1971 crop is necessary under present economic conditions," Holly President John B. Bunker said in his announcement Wednesday afternoon from Colorado Springs, Colo.

BUNKER SAID a study of "the plant's limited capacity and limited growing area" is now being conducted.

When completed, the study will be reviewed and a decision made on whether to reopen the plant after 1971 or close it permanently, Bunker said.

He expects the study to be finished next month and any decision made before March 31, the end of Holly's fiscal year.

"If the Hardin facility is permanently closed," Bunker said for the benefit of stockholders, "certain non-reoccuring closi costs—removal of plant equ ment, etc.,—will be reflected March's financial statement.

At the same time that Bunk was making his announceme in Colorado Springs, compa officials explained the decisic to Hardin employes, directors local sugar beet growers associ tions and to union officials.

Holly's 55 year-around em ployes were told they would h contacted individually in th next few days for a review o their future status.

THE 150 SEASONAL employes will finish Holly's current processing campaign, expected to end in mid-February, and will not return to work next year.

The beet growers, who last year had 13,974 acres planted in sugar beets, were told they will have to take 1971's crop elsewhere.

Growers near Hardin may go th Great Western Sugar Co., whose processing plant is in Billings. Growers along the Yellowstone have an option of contacting Holly's plant in Sidney.

If Great Western cannot accept extra beets or if transportation costs to Sidney are too high, the growers will have to find something else to plant.

BUNKER EMPHASIZED in his announcement that Holly's nine other factories, three of them, smaller than the Hardin plant, would not be affected by the closure.

A. C. Parker, Holly's director of communications in Colorado Springs, said year-around Hardin employes will be given three options by the company.

"Some will be transferred to other plants, some may get early retirement and the remainder will receive severance pay," he said.

The factory, which processed 220,000 tons of sugar beets in 1969, has an annual payroll of $1 million, he said.

In addition, Parker said, Holly spends another $5 million in local purchases including payments to beet growers.

Friday, January 29, 1971 Great Falls Tribune 5

Holly Sugar 'Closing' Hardin Plant

HARDIN (AP) — The Colorado-based Holly Sugar Corp. said it will not process sugar beets at its Hardin plant for any 1971 crops and may close the plant permanently.

Closure of the large processing plant will mean the loss of a $6 million-a-year payroll to eastern Montana.

The closure will affect over 200 employes of the plant and beet growers from northern Wyoming, along the Big Horn River and down the Yellowstone River to Miles City.

"The decision to stop processing at Hardin for the 1971 crop is necessary under present economic conditions" Holly President John B. Bunker said in his announcement from Colorado Springs, Colo.

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When completed, the study will be reviewed and a decision made on whether to reopen the plant after 1971 or close it permanently, Bunker said.

Bunker said a decision should be made before March 31, the end of Holly's fiscal year.

The beet growers in the area, who planted 13,974 acres last year, were told by the company that they would have to take the 1971 crop elsewhere.

Growers near Hardin may go to Great Western Sugar Co., whose processing plant is in Billings. Growers along the Yellowstone River can contact Holly's plant in Sidney.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

427 First Avenue East — Kalispell, Montana

Montana State Employment Service

Unemployment Insurance

Dear Sir:

In the past years it has been our practice to try to contact each of you personally before the start of cherry harvest. This year, due to circumstances beyond our control, it will be impossible for us to make a personal call to all of you. We are hopeful however, to see each and everyone of you sometime during cherry harvest as we will be setting up a mobile office at Yellow Bay State Park.

As we mentioned, we cannot see all of you before picking starts, but we are hopeful that we can again serve you in recruitment of pickers. In order to give us an idea of the number of pickers that will be needed, we are asking that you complete the bottom portion of this letter and return it to us at your earliest convenience. If you should acquire pickers on your own, please notify us at once to avoid sending people to you when they are not needed. A positive response to #2 indicating a need for pickers will be treated as an order for pickers and referrals will be made. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Hoping for your cooperation on this important matter I am,

Sincerely,

Norman S. Beyer

Norman S. Beyer, Manager
Montana State Employment Service
Kalispell Local Office

NSB:DI:pib

Please answer:

1. ☐ I have pickers coming and will not need more this year.
2. ☐ I will need _____ pickers to start approx. _____ at $_____ per lb
3. ☐ I have housing available.
4. ☐ I have no housing available. Pickers will have to live elsewhere.

Signed _____

Location of Orchard _____

_____

Phone Number _____

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

624 North 24th Street
Billings, Montana

Montana State
Employment Service

December 30, 1970

Unemployment
Insurance

TO: Jess C. Fletcher, Director
Montana State Employment Service

SUBJECT: Housing Inspections

I have asked the Field Supervisor to have the attached letter reproduced so that I could mail it to Holly Sugar beet growers who have not returned a form ES-338 as required by the U. S. Department of Labor. I am also attaching a memorandum which went out to all agricultural employers requiring that each employer must complete and send to the local Employment Service office, by January 1st of each year, a form ES-338.

I have discussed with the Holly Sugar Corporation the requirements of the U. S. Department of Labor and it appears to me that they understand that employers with sub-standard housing will be removed from the clearance order which will be submitted in January.

Clarence H. Nybo

CLARENCE H. NYBO, Manager
Billings Local Office

CHN/dg
Attach.
cc: Field Supervisor

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

Montana State
Employment Service

211 South Kendrick Avenue
Glendive, Montana

Unemployment
Insurance

Dear

It was determined through inspection of your housing by the U.S. Department of Labor Regional Office inspectors that the migrant housing you provided last season for your beet workers did not meet the regulations required. We recently received notification of this from Denver.

Therefore, we have no alternative but to delete any request you might make through the Holly Sugar Company to our agency for recruitment of migrant workers to be hired for the coming season - until such time that a re-inspection indicates that required improvements have been made.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 365-3611 at any time.

Robert Templeton, Mgr.
Glendive Local Office

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION
P. O. BOX 1728 • HELENA, MONTANA 59601 TELEPHONE 406/449-2511
621 North 24th Street
Billings, Montana

Montana State
Employment Service

Unemployment
Insurance

The Holly Sugar Corporation has requested our agency to recruit interstate workers for spring sugar beet operations.

Your name was listed as a grower who may need labor this coming spring.

The U. S. Department of Labor Housing Regulations require that all agricultural employers who anticipate using interstate migrant workers must complete a form ES-338, "Employer's Statement of Housing and Facilities", and have it on file in the local Employment Service office.

In the event you plan to use out-of-state sugar beet labor this year, it is necessary that you return the completed form, ES-338, which was recently provided you by Holly Sugar Corporation, to this office no later than January 15, 1971.

In the event this form is not received, we will assume you do not plan to use out-of-state workers and will remove your name and the number of workers you normally use from the Order.

If you have any questions regarding your sugar beet labor needs, please feel free to contact our office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

CLARENCE H. NYBO, Manager
Billings Local Office

State Recognizing Responsibility to Migrant Worker

Farm Hands Have Problems, Too

By FRANK ADAMS
Tribune Capitol Bureau

HELENA — This summer an estimated 7,500 or 8,000 hired hands will be coming from out of state to work on Montana farms and ranches.

The significance of this work force is pointed up by a Department of Agriculture report showing that it amounted to about a third of all the hired agriculture workers in the state last August — a peak month.

And the number of hired workers doesn't include the family members who come along, some of whom also help out with the work.

First in Series

Some of the transients come from southern states to work the entire season in Montana, beginning in early April.

It's the rest — the ones who migrate from state to state following certain crops — that we'll be looking at in this series, with most of the focus on the largest if not the most unique group — the migrant beet worker.

Mechanization has taken the heart out of migratory labor in recent years, and grain has been no exception.

State Employment Service director Jess Fletcher says about 15 years ago there were as many as 10,000 custom combines coming into the state each season, whereas now it's mostly operators with their crews. About 600 migrant wheat workers are expected to come in this year.

Combine operators make relatively good money; between $25 and $35 a day in wages in addition to a fee for use of the machines of those who have them. Truck drivers get between $15 and $20 a day. The crews follow the wheat harvest from the southwest on up into Canada.

Another 600 workers will soon make their way into the Flathead Valley and its big cherry crop. Norman Beyer, manager of the Kalispell employment office, says these migrants are now in California picking fruit and walnuts. Then they'll move into Washington and Oregon and then into Montana. After Montana, it's Idaho and Utah to catch the apricot harvest.

Beyer says that at five cents a pound, the professional pickers can average $40 a day.

Because migrants are only here for a short time and make no real connection with the establishment, there has been the tendency to just ignore them, particularly since they take their problems with them when they leave the state.

But in recent years — notably the past year or two — state officials have recognized that the state does have a responsibility toward them, especially some of the more downtrodden migrants such as the beet workers.

Because so many agencies have an interest, it was felt about a year and a half ago that it would be well to orgnize a migrant committee including representatives of the departments of Health, Employment, Welfare, Public Instruction, Agriculture, and Planning. The committee, chaired by Health Department executive officer Dr. John Anderson, was organized within the Governor's Council on Human Resources.

Even though the fate of the Council is in doubt in view of executive reorganization, the thinking seems to be that the migrant committee is of sufficient value that it should be continued in some way or another.

Dr. Anderson says the role of the committe has been an interpretive one — explaining migrants and their needs to the growers and community.

Anderson says, "I was amazed to find out how little I knew about migrants. They really were invisible. An HEW man used to come over here every year and ask: 'What are you doing for the migrants?' I'd say: 'Nothing. If there are any problems I don't know what they are. We don't go out looking for problems. We can't take care of all our responsibilities now.'"

But it turned out that there were problems and now Anderson and many others are very much involved in trying to alleviate them.

(Tomorrow: the migrant beet worker.)

Beet Worker Demand Slim

By FRANK ADAMS
Tribune Capitol Bureau

HELENA—There is evidence that 80 per cent of the migratory beet workers in Montana come directly here from the three south Texas counties of Maverick, Zavala, and Hidalgo. They're part of a migrant stream of roughly 125,000 Mexican-Americans who leave Texas each year and disperse in four or five directions.

Four groups leave Montana after six or seven weeks: 20 per cent go to Michigan, 20 per cent to Wisconsin, 20 per cent back to Texas, and the rest scatter with the wind.

Second in Series

Ben Evans, chief of farm placement for the State Employment Service, estimates there will be about 1,800 beet thinners coming into Montana this year, primarily in the Yellowstone Valley. That's about 1,000 fewer than last year, due to the closing of the Holly sugar plant in Hardin. About 600 are being recruited by the state for beet farms serving the Holly plant at Sidney. The rest will be reeruited by the Great Western sugar factory at Billings.

In addition, many of the workers will bring family members with them, for a total of perhaps 7,800 persons coming to Montana starting the last of this month.

Evans says 10 and 15 years ago sugar beets used to attract 10,000 migrant workers plus their families but mechanization and the changing sugar market have taken their toll.

At one time there were five sugar factories in Montana. But U & I closed at Chinook, American Crystal quit in Missoula, and this year Holly closed its Hardin plant.

Machines have replaced many beet workers and Evans says they could replace more, but there's still a preferance for some hand labor. For one thing, workers can keep going

in a field mucky from rain when a machine would have trouble.

Holly brought in some mechanical thinners in recent years that required numerous and constant adjustments and left much to be desired.

But this year the machines are getting perfected and quite a few farmers have bought their own. Glendive beet farmer Alvin Odenbach, who is vice president of the Montana-Wyoming Beetgrowers Association, says there are three or four mechanical thinners in his area this year and "if they prove successful, you're going to see quite extensive purchase of these things."

But experience with them so far has been that "everything has got to be real nice for them to work. A big rain or hail can just about make these things worthless overnight."

Other advancements in the art of agriculture have also made their inroads in stoop labor. Odenbach says four or five years ago a man did 14 acres of beets. But because the farmers are doing more precision planting and weed control, they're now recruiting on the basis of around 20 acres per man.

Odenbach, incidentally, finds it ironic that the Labor Department has been raising the pay rate for beet workers an average of $2 per acre every year, "even though the farmer's making it easier and easier for the workers."

The rate for hoe trimming and weeding by hand was $20 an acre last year and it's expected to be a little higher this year—maybe 5 or 10 per cent. That's for the first assault on the weeds and extra beet plants. The second time around the workers get $10.50 an acre, but they move through the acre much faster.

Evans estimates the migrants make anywhere from $1.75 to $3.50 an hour, depending on how fast they can make that hoe move.

Odenbach says it another way: "They're already being paid the highest per hour of any agriculture worker. We have many that make over $2 easily. Some of these good workers, if they get a good field, can really make the money."

Annual family income seems to be a horse of quite a different color, however.

Figures vary depending on who you talk to. But federal and state officials generally accept $2,500 to $3,000 as the average. Robert Templeton of the Glendive employment office told the Tribune he thinks that's probably low, because some families make that much in Montana.

Welfare officials are convinced annual migrant income is low enough that they qualify for free day care for their children by way of Aid to Dependent Children. That would put them in the range of $1,560 a year with one child to $3,420 a year with six children. (Normally, ADC is figured for only one parent, but a special case is made for migrants who usually travel two parents to a family.)

As for the stereotype of the migrant as downtrodden and victimized, Odenbach demurs that it may be accurate in some states, but not in Montana. "All they have to bring is the clothes on their back. Everything else is provided. Very seldom will you meet up with a Mexican who feels he's being picked on.

"I don't think the migrants that are coming to Montana and Wyoming are being discriminated against, hurt, or underpaid. There are isolated cases where a house isn't what it should have been, this is true."

(Tomorrow: migrant housing)

According to Federal Regulations

Beet Workers'

Housing Substandard

By FRANK ADAMS
Tribune Capitol Bureau

HELENA — In order for beet growers to use the services of the State Employment Office in recruiting migrant workers, the housing they provide has to measure up to federal standards laid down by the Department of Labor.

Here's how a federal inspector found migrant housing in one Montana beet-growing area last summer:

"The housing in this area is not good. I found that the housing is worse now than it was three years ago when I inspected the housing and (Robert Templeton, local employment office manager) agreed with me.

"On Friday it rained and while we were inspecting housing we found a small family living in a trailer house that had three roof leaks, one in the kitchen and two in a bedroom. They had pans on top of the bed to catch the rain water and, to add to their misery, there was no heat in the trailer. They had two small children and since it was raining the temperature was cold. We contacted the grower and requested immediate correction of the heat problem. The grower provided an electric heater and the roof had been repaired when I checked back on Saturday.

"We heard of two labor houses where the field man had directed workers to growers and, on seeing the housing, the workers refused to occupy them. On inspection of the housing we found that the housing was filthy.

"There are some acceptable units in this area but the unacceptable ratio is predominant in this area at time of this inspection."

The area happened to be Glendive, but judging from the rest of the report it easily could have been any of the beet growing areas of the Yellowstone Valley.

Templeton says he's been out inspecting housing in his area this year and "a lot of people have put in a lot of work and time cleaning up and fixing up their places. There'll be a definite improvement in housing."

New federal regulations require hot and cold running water this year. But because of a typographical error which left that requirement unclear, farmers can get by this year if they sign a statement promising to get it in next year.

If a farmer does his own recruiting or gets the sugar company to recruit for him, the federal housing standards don't apply. However, that's not to say the State Health Department might not have something to say about it if it gets too bad.

But a recruiting license in Texas runs as high as $1,000 per county (set to slow down California labor raids) so the preferred route is to let the state handle it.

Templeton thinks the regulation about how many should live in one house may cause some reduction in the total number of migrants coming to Montana this year. If the rules allow only four people in a certain house, some family members might have to be left behind. Templeton says a lot of the

workers used to bring a grandfather or grandmother to help cook and so forth.

The occupancy rule specifies that "family units, with one or more children six years and older, shall have a room or partitioned sleeping area for husband and wife, or approximately 50 square feet per occupant (adult)."

Alvin Odenbach of Glendive, vice president of the Montana-Wyoming Beetgrowers Association, says, "It looks like the majority of the farmers are going to meet the requirements."

He says it'll be quite an expense for the farmers to put in hot and cold running water for the 30 days that it'll be in use; "the farmers are reluctant because of the investment and then it'll sit there the rest of the year."

Odenbach adds: "Very, very seldom have we had any gripes from the workers themselves. In fact, some of the workers in Texas heard about it (the strict housing rules) and they told the recruiters to get off the backs of the farmers. They're satisfied for the 30 days they're here."

"These people make real good money, as good money as anybody in town makes for 30 days. They don't expect to live royally. In fact, though, some of the housing is better than they live in Texas."

Odenbach says "interference" from regulations and various do-gooder groups "is what makes the Mexican so angry." Because it's forcing farmers to turn to mechanization and "they're going to be out of a job. Period. And they don't like it."

(Next: Health for migrants)

Wednesday, May 19, 1971 Great Falls Tribune 7

Illness Plagues Many Migrants

By FRANK ADAMS
Tribune Capitol Bureau

HELENA—Because of the long, quick trip from Texas and exposure to the weather along the way, a disproportionately large number of migrant beet workers are sick when they arrive in the Yellowstone Valley of Montana.

Virginia Kenyon, nursing division director for the State Health Department, says their ailments run the gamut from diarrhea, upset stomachs, and insect bites to vomiting, skin infections, and all kinds of upper respiratory troubles such as flu and colds.

Third in a Series

The Health Department, working with a $16,000 federal grant, has assumed the obligation of looking after the health of migrants through a project of eight clinics in doctors' offices from Sidney to Columbus.

Ilo Kailey, supervisor of nurses for the Health Department in Eastern Montana, has charge of the program, which was developed only last year. Before that, Mrs. Kailey supervised nurses hired on a federal grant by the Department of Public Instruction in the Summer school program that that department has administered for several years. During that time she found all kinds of things that needed more attention.

In backgrounding the need for special help, Mrs. Kailey reported to the Health Department that 1969 statistics from the 10-county beetgrowing area "indicate that there is a high incidence of both major and minor illnesses among the migrant."

In that year the department's family health centers treated 44 prenatals, 18 diptheria contacts, 13 female disorders, nine newborns, one PKU baby, one broken back, three diabetics, two mental illnesses, four infertility, four family planning, eight TB contacts, two tape worms, five injuries, two bleeding ulcers, two impetigo, 14 gastro intestinal disorders, five allergies, one poison ivy, four anemias, two Monelia, two mumps, two conjunctives, two serologys, and five urinary problems—all involving migrants.

And Mrs. Kailey said that was only a partial count and didn't include the school children seen by physicians. Three-fourths of the 1,500 children enrolled in 10 areas were seen by doctors either for physical exams or health reasons.

Mrs. Kailey added, "Up until 1969, when our family health center opened, services to the migrant were on a sporadic basis as acute problems arose. Most minor illnesses remained unattended, and no organized system of health care delivery geared specifically to meet the migrant's needs existed. Insurance coverage is in effect only while the worker is employed and is limited to in-patient benefits. Hence, no pre-natal care and out-patient calls for preventive illness existed prior to 1969, unless the migrant could pay."

"In addition to Sidney and Columbus, the clinics this year will be serving migrants in Terry, Miles City, Worden, Bridger, Glendive, and Laurel.

Two health aides and a nurse came in under the Office of Economic Opportunity last year. Mrs. Kenyon says they won't be available this year, although the project will have a bilingual VISTA worker.

A big problem is the language barrier which makes it difficult to tell the migrants about health services available to them. The Health Department has prepared pamphlets in Spanish telling about the clinics, in an effort to bridge the language gap.

Mrs. Kailey makes use of a citizens advisory committee, which includes some former migrants who have settled in Montana. And she continues to advise the school nurses who work with migrant children attending the special Summer schools.

(Tomorrow: migrant children go to Summer school)

16 Great Falls Tribune Thursday, May 20, 1971

Migrant School Displaces Hoe

By FRANK ADAMS
Tribune Capitol Bureau

HELENA — The State Department of Public Instruction is preparing for summer classes for about 1,400 boys and and girls who don't even call themselves Montanans.

They're migrant children—children whose parents make their living traveling from state to state weeding beets and picking fruit.

Fifth in Series

Most of them are in school only four to five months out of the year in their home base. For the large majority, the home base in south Texas.

This is the fifth year Montana has participated in a federal program of providing a little extra education for the migrant children.

The classes, or "projects," as they're known to those working in the program, will be held at 11 locations: Fromberg, Billings, Worden, Hysham, Rosebud, Kinsey, Terry, Glendive, Sidney, Fairview, and—for the cherry pickers—Big Fork.

Rita Brown, assistant supervisor for the program in the State Superintendent's office, says children four to 18 years old are included. She notes, though, that during the summer, most of the older children are working in the fields, "and we can't force them to go to school."

An important function of the migrant daycare centers administered by the Welfare Department is to free the older ones from babysitting so they can go to school.

Mrs. Brown says the classes concentrate in the language arts. Most of the pupils speak Spanish and the plan is to teach them first to speak, and then to read, English. Other courses include music, physical education, arts and crafts, home economics, and vocational education.

In addition to learning activities, the children receive physical and dental exams and treatment and free breakfasts and lunches.

The classes are in session six days a week, from early morning until evening, and run six to seven weeks, depending on how long the parents' work lasts.

Mrs. Brown says the teachers are mostly local people and nearly all Montanans. Some bilinguals are brought from Texas to facilitate communication. This year it will only be necessary to bring two Texans into the program because the state is finding more and more local teachers who can manage Spanish. Much of this is due to teachers who have participated in the program over the past several years becoming familiar with the language.

The main goal of the classes is not to make the children better migrant workers when they grow up, but to help them get other jobs. This is particularly important in view of the way so much migrant labor is being phased out by machines. Mrs. Brown figures that most of the children will not grow up to follow in their parents' footsteps.

The program tries to give them some vocational information and show them there are other jobs available besides hoeing beets.

Mrs. Brown says the people in Sidney—for example—have let migrant teenagers work in a beauty shop and clerk in grocery stores to give them exposure to other jobs. They're also taken on field trips into such businesses as banks to let them see what it's like in the world their parents know little about.

In front of Mrs. Brown's desk stands a teletype which will be linked up with a central computer in Little Rock, Ark., and which will enable Montana to get information overnight on each of the migrant pupils. Every state will be tied in to the data bank this summer, so that the teachers can know where their pupils stand, what books they've been in, and so forth.

Mrs. Brown says the projects will call Helena with a request for information. Helena will put the request on the teletype in the afternoon and get an answer back the next morning. Then Helena will call the information to the project requesting it. Later, the computer will send the project a complete printout of other, less urgent, details.

None of the expense of the program is borne by the state. School facilities are rented, buses are contracted for, and all the 200 personnel are hired from the State Superintendent's office with a federal grant, which this year amounts to $610,000. Nationally, the tab exceeded $50 million last year.

Mrs. Brown looks at more as an investment than an expense. She says every dollar spent now is calculated to save $25 in 10 years on welfare payments alone.

Mrs. Brown says a number of the migrants come in after their day's work in the fields to learn to read and write. And the dedicated teachers work with them at night, after the regular classes.

"We know it's successful," says Mrs. Brown: "They're coming to us."

Tomorrow: day care centers for kids invoke some local resentment.

State Gives Migrant Young Help—But Do They Learn 'Gimme'?

By FRANK ADAMS
Tribune Capitol Bureau

HELENA — Before last year, many children of migrant beet workers attending special summer schools used to bring their infant brothers and sisters to class with them and leave them lying on the floor in the back of the room. Others were left in cars while their parents worked in the fields.

Then last year the State Welfare Department stepped in and with the help of a federal grant organized day care centers at all the special schools.

Mary Ann Baumgardner, licensing specialist at the Welfare Department, says the migrants qualify for free day care for their children on the basis of their annual family income, which is generally taken to be between $2,000 and $3,000.

Sixth in Series

The cost comes to $4 per day per child, $3 of which is contributed by Uncle Sam and $1 by the state. This covers food, toys, equipment, staff salaries, and some medical expenses. About 160 kids were involved last year, at an average age of about one year.

The centers are organized in each of the school buildings used for the special summer classes operated by the State Department of Public Instruction. It's very important that they be in the same buildings, says Mrs. Baumgardner, because the Mexican-Americans are very close as a family and the pupils worry about their younger brothers and sisters.

Last year the day care center and the classes were held in separate buildings in Glendive and Mrs. Baumgardner says it was a bad situation with the older children crying a lot.

She says that since most of the kids are very young, a lot of emphasis is placed on holding them and talking to them.

The Welfare Department has been able to hire a number of migrant womem to work in the centers — women who would otherwise be working in the fields.

This has served a dual purpose: A bilingual person is needed at each center because of the language gap. And with migratory work on its way out due to mechanization, the migrant women who are able to work in the day care centers have something else they can turn to.

The department tries to keep the ratio up around four or five children to every staff member so the children can get individual attention.

Under the direction of the school nurses, the children are given thorough physical when they come into centers. Mrs. Baumgardner recalls that last year one girl was so anemic that she would have died within a few weeks without the attention she got.

The school nurses do a lot of the supervision and training of the staff members concerning such things as sanitation, food and feeding, and bottle sterilization.

What with all the attention and good food — not to mention baths — they get, the kids are in pretty good shape when they and their parents proceed on their migratory way, says Mrs. Baumgardner.

She says the parents were a little apprehensive about the program at first. But someone came around with a mobile video tape recorder and went from center to center taping in the daytime and letting the parents see the tape at night. The same was done with the special classes and the parents were quickly reassured.

Some of the farmers and other people living in the beet country are resentful of both the day care centers and the summer schools.

One farmer told the Tribune, "Your kids don't get free cookies and milk, your kids don't get taken to the carnival and swimming . . . all at the taxpayers' expense.

"This is all given to them. They're being taught real young that 'Uncle Sam is going to take care of me.'

"We're raising a generation here that's going to be the next group coming up that'll say, 'Gimme, Gimme'."

The resentment stems partly from the fact that many of the migrants do fairly well — as agricultural work goes — for the time they're in Montana. But the free programs are based on the migrants' total annual family income, which is not so good.

There is probably also some sensitivity about the children of one's employes standing in the bread line.

Most of the farmers are reluctant to say anything, however, because of the image many people still have — outdated as it may be — of the farmer as exploiter.

Tomorrow: A unique proposal to help migrants.

Migrant Communications:

By FRANK ADAMS
Tribune Capitol Bureau

Last of a Series

The Need and a Possible Answer

HELENA — Two young VISTA workers — Bryant and Robin Hatch of San Francisco — have been working on solutions to migrant problems for about a year in cooperation with the Migrant committee of the Governor's Council on Human Resources.

One of the big problems that affect migrants — particularly beet workers with their education and language handicaps — is that because of the small amount of time they spend in each state there is inadequate linkage between them and the community and between them and various public services.

For example, how do you know how many migrant children to plan on for the day care center at Sidney? Or for the education project at Rosebud? Or whether a child is due for another vaccination?

Cases have been documented, days Bryant, where a migrant went to a doctor and the doctor thought it was a heart attack when it was only a sinus attack — simply because the English-speaking doctor and the Spanish-speaking migrant couldn't communicate.

After doing a lot of studying of the matter, the Hatches have developed what they cautiously describe as "what might be one answer to some of the problems."

What it boils down to is a traveling squad of volunteers to act as a mobile neighborhood center for the migrants and to provide the needed linkage between the migrants and the farming community where they work. As Bryant puts it, it would be "a way of providing a two-way communication system between the migrants and the various resources that are available to them."

Thus, if for some reason a migrant family is unaware of the health clinic set up for them in their area by the Health Department, the unit could tell them about it.

As the Hatches envision it, the unit would be made up of five VISTA workers with specialities. There would be two health aides, two counselors, and a lawyer. Hopefully, the health aides would be recruited into VISTA from the ranks of the migrants themselves. They would be given special training in advance, and because they would come from the ranks of the migrants, they would be able to provide the unit with a valuable cultural linkage.

All unit members would have to be bilingual.

In addition to the obvious role of job counseling, the two counselors would also help out in any difficulties that might occur, including juvenile delinquency and other social problems.

Bryant says the unit would probably be established in a mobile van which would be the office setting or the focal point of the workers.

The units would establish contact in the south Texas counties where most of the migrant beet workers in Montana come directly from. They'd head for predetermined sites and, says Bryant, "the real contact would come after they reach their destination."

When the migrants leave Montana, the units would go with the three main groups that branch off to Michigan, Wisconsin, and back to Texas. The other 40 per cent scatter all over so it would be impractical to try to make the unit-concept work with them.

Since four states would be involved, they'd all have to agree to any such concept as being worthwhile before it could get off the ground.

Exactly how the project might be funded is still a matter for searching. Like the other migrant programs discussed earlier in this series, though, it would undoubtedly come from some sort of federal grant.

The State Office of Economic Opportunity has been asked by the Migrant committee to administer the program until some permanent arrangement could be worked out. With this year's migrant season already at hand, the program would not get started until at least next season.

The Department of Agriculture is said to be opposed to the plan because of the feeling that much of it would be a duplication of efforts. But the Hatches and the migrant committee feel it could make a worthwhile contribution to the lives of thousands of people who until recently were invisible to the eyes of the state and who remain so to many people to this day.

Majority of Montana Work Force Connected to Agricultural Base

BOZEMAN — Three of every 10 non-government jobs nationally are related to agriculture. The percentage is considerably higher in Montana.

However, facts on agriculturally-related jobs, and job potential even in production agriculture, are extremely limited for Montana. Such information is needed to plan educational programs for agriculture and agribusiness.

Surveys to obtain this information are being conducted in five stages. The long-range goal is to help "identify, clarify and ultimately improve the availability and quality of education and employment to the people of Montana," said Dr. Max Amberson, chairman of the MSU Agricultural Education department.

The research is sponsored by Amberson's department, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, with Chamber of Commerce support.

Now under way is an agribusiness survey to find out how many such businesses there are, number of personnel employed and potential future employment. After a mail follow-up and personal interviews of non-respondents questionnaire information will be tabulated by computer.

Phase 2 will determine job descriptions and titles of persons employed in agriculture and interviews to obtain population facts to be processed with the other data. Questionnaires will be mailed to 1,500 agricultural producers (5 to 10 per cent of Montana farmers and ranchers). Interviews of non-respondents will be by local people who have a solid background in agriculture, Amberson said.

Phase 3 will establish statewide and local programs to qualify Montanans for agriculturally-related employment, on or off the farm. The final phases will cover years and will evaluate and upgrade the new programs and employer response.

The agricultural producer survey is scheduled to be completed by mid-1972, to be followed by a one-year program to learn abilities of potential employees. Results of the studies, including follow-up in future years, will be published.

All information obtained will be used to plan agricultural and other vocational-technical training facilities, teaching methods and goals, Amberson said. A public relations program will be aimed at farm production groups.

Amberson said about 12 per cent of Montana's high school graduates now enter vocational or technical training, usually a two-year course, compared to 56 per cent which enter colleges for academic study.

Nearly one high school student out of three in Montana is taking some vocational-technical training, for a total of more than 11,000. This includes approximately 2,800 in vocational-agriculture (Future Farmer of America) courses.

This means there are some 8,400 high school students in non-agriculture vocational training. Montana also has some 3,000 enrolled in vocational-type training beyond the high school level.

This includes full and part-time students at area vocational-technical centers at Missoula, Butte, Helena, Great Falls and Billings. Others are students at two-year community colleges in Miles City, Glendive, and Kalispell. The rest are accounted for by courses at Northern Montana College, Bozeman vocational-technical school and the proposed Mountain-Plains Region Education Center at the former Glasgow Air Force Base.

Amberson said other Montana youths go elsewhere for technical training, including an agribusiness supply school in Washington state.

He pointed to a vast potential employment in Montana agriculture. In 1970 agricultural receipts, including government payments, were $643 million. As the state's No. 1 income-producing industry, agriculture creates jobs using a variety of skills in marketing, processing, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of farm products.

Handling agricultural products after they leave the farm employs eight million workers nationally. Another six million provide the supplies and services used by farmers including machinery, fertilizer, petroleum products, vehicles, etc.

There is little agreement among agencies offering educational programs as to how most effectively to meet needs of youths who need training to find employment, and farmers and agri-businessmen seeking competent help, Amberson said.

The current agricultural employment research, in addition to providing a basis for planning vocational education systems, will allow all agencies involved opportunity to coordinate efforts to meet needs, Amberson said. This includes business and industry as well as schools from high school to university level.

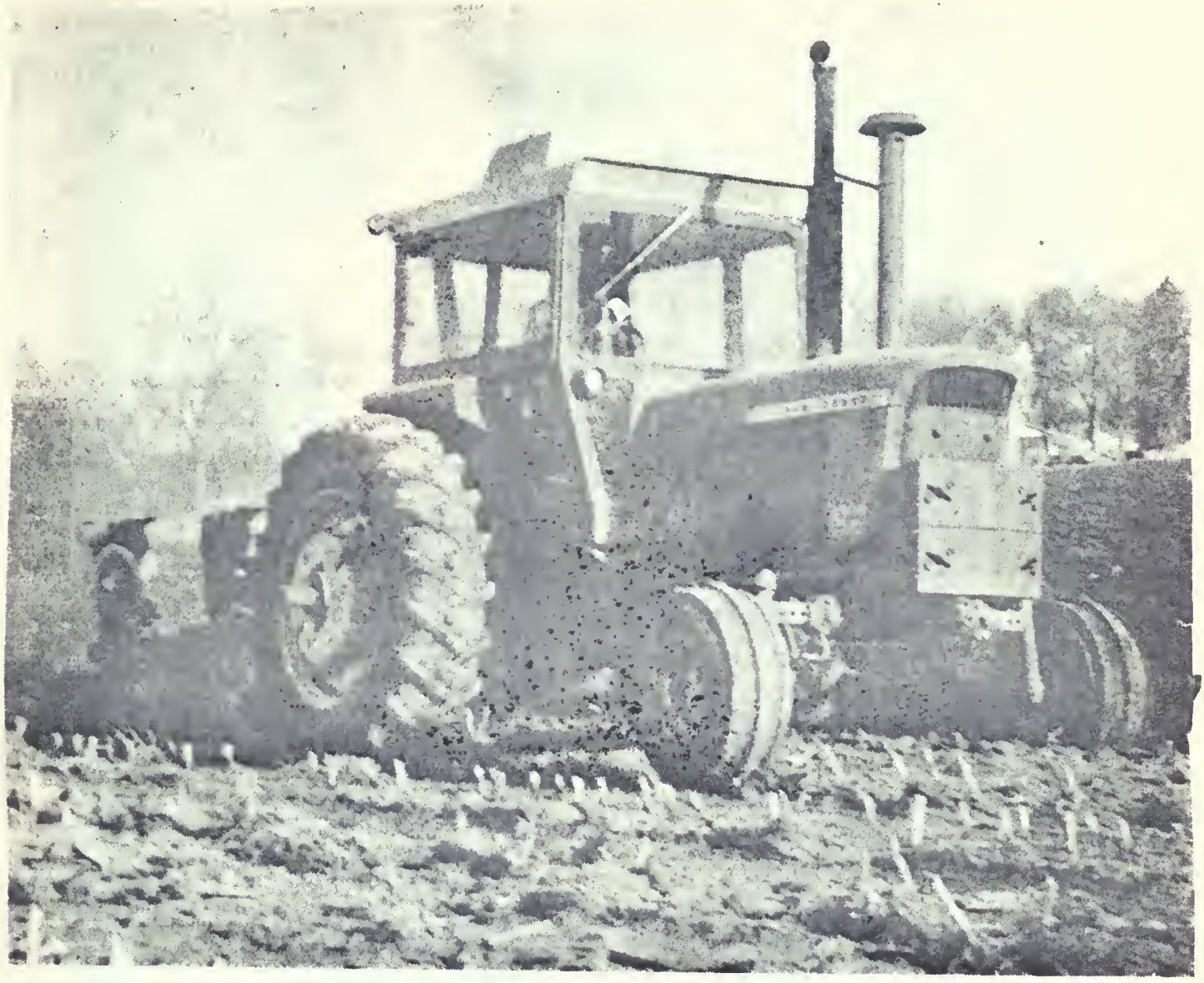
A limited study in the Billings trade area (southcentral Montana and north-central Wyoming) conducted in 1970 by a Montana State University student provided information on agri-business education needs of the area. The Montana survey will expand this to a state-wide basis to provide help to both educators and business for a variety of agencies, Amberson said.

PESTS STILL PESKY

Even with the use of modern pesticides, the average annual loss of crop and livestock production in the U.S. caused by major pests is 33 per cent of the potential or over $14 billion each year. Without pesticides, total crop and livestock production would be cut another 30 per cent.

HEAVY EATER

By the time he is 70, the average American will have used 26 million tons of water, 10,000 pounds of meat, 14 tons of milk and cream, and 9,000 pounds of wheat.



FIELD WORK - A Sidney area farmer Ike Rambur, plows a field near Sidney as he prepares for spring seeding operations. Farming activity got into full swing this week in the Yellowstone Valley as warm temperatures forced frost from the ground late last week.

Farm Activity in Full Swing

Farming operations in the Yellowstone Valley got into full swing this week, ahead of last year's schedule by at least four weeks.

Temperatures in the mid-80's have dried fields sufficiently and farmers on both dry and irrigated land have started their spring tilling and seeding, according to Richland County Extension Agent Ellis Williams.

Williams said some small grain seeding has started on dry land farms and seeding in the irrigated land would start later this week.

Last year, rain and snow prevented farmers from getting into their fields until the second week in May. Although the late start last year was expected to hamper crop growth, most farmers came out with an average crop and some with above average crops.

This year's spring work is right on schedule for the area compared to other years, according to reports from area farmers.

Williams said the moisture condition on the dry land is very good for this time of year and should provide crops the necessary moisture to get a good start.

Wheat and barley are the main crops being seeded now and if the weather conditions remain as they have for two more weeks, the springs work should be completed.

Sugar beet and corn planting is expected to begin within a week. Last year, sugar beet and corn growers didn't have their crops in until the middle of May.

Construction in the area has also speeded up with work being done on several new homes in the Sidney area.

Repair on damaged sections of highways and county roads has also begun since warm weather moved in forcing the frost from the ground.

Courtesy--Sidney Herald

GETTING IT ON — OR OFF — The bullriding events at hundreds of rodeos are real crowd pleasers. Here Bud Schmauch of Dixon is unloaded by a bull called Fugitive during action at the Sanders County Fair and Rodeo. Fugitive seems just a might up in the air over the whole thing while Schmauch seems to have both feet on the ground, along with the rest of his anatomy. (Staff photo by Jim Cotter)

Courtesy--Sidney Herald